

decrypting said encrypted digital data to decrypted digital data by using said display permit key, and displaying said decrypted digital data;

decrypting said encrypted digital data to decrypted digital data by using said edit permit key, and editing said decrypted digital data;

decrypting said encrypted digital data to decrypted digital data by using said storage permit key, encrypting again said decrypted digital data to encrypted digital data by using said storage permit key, and storing said encrypted digital data;

decrypting said encrypted digital data to decrypted digital data by using said copy permit key, encrypting again said decrypted digital data to encrypted digital data by using said copy permit key, and copying said encrypted digital data; and

decrypting said encrypted digital data to decrypted digital data by using said transfer permit key, encrypting again said decrypted digital data to encrypted digital data by using said transfer permit key, and transferring said encrypted digital data.

24. A digital data management method according to claim 23, wherein said step of encrypting said digital data uses a crypt key specific to said digital data.

25. A digital data management method according to claim 23, wherein said step of encrypting said digital data uses a crypt key not specific to said digital data.

26. A digital data management method according to claim 23, wherein:
said utilization permit key is hierarchized; and

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said utilization permit key at an upper hierarchy level includes a function of said utilization permit key at a lower hierarchy level.

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~~27.~~ A digital management method according to claim ⁴~~26~~, wherein said transfer permit key is said utilization permit key at the highest hierarchy level.

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~~28.~~ A digital data management method according to claim ⁴~~26~~, wherein said edit permit key is said utilization permit key at the highest hierarchy level.

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~~29.~~ A digital data management method according to claim ¹~~25~~, wherein:
said encrypted digital data is decrypted to decrypted digital data only when said digital data is displayed or edited; and
said decrypted digital data, when stored, copied or transferred, is encrypted again to said encrypted digital data.

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~~30.~~ A digital data management method according to claim ¹~~25~~, wherein:
said encrypted digital data is, when displayed or edited, decrypted to said decrypted digital data; and
said decrypted digital data is, when stored, copied or transferred, encrypted again to said encrypted digital data.

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~~31.~~ A digital data management method according to claim ¹~~25~~, further comprising a step of using a copyright management program for managing utilization of said digital data.

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32. A digital data management method according to claim ⁹31, wherein said copyright management program is included in said utilization permit key.

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33. A digital data management method according to claim ⁹31, wherein a crypt key is added to said copyright management program.

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34. A digital data management method according to claim ⁹31, ¹⁰32 or ¹¹33, wherein said copyright management program is encrypted to an encrypted copyright management program.

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35. A digital data management method according to claim ¹²34, wherein said encrypted copyright management program is decrypted by using said utilization permit key.

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36. A digital data management method according to claim ⁹31, wherein said copyright management program is separate from said digital data.

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37. A digital data management method according to claim ⁹31, wherein said copyright management program is integrated with said digital data.

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38. A digital data management method according to claim ¹23, wherein said utilization permit key includes a crypt key.

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39. A digital data management method according to claim ⁹31, wherein said copyright management program includes said crypt key.

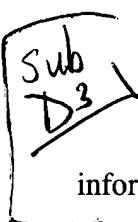
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^{40.} A digital data management method according to claim ¹⁶~~38~~ or ¹⁷~~39~~, wherein said crypt key is encrypted.

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^{41.} A digital data management method according to claim ¹~~23~~, wherein copyright information is added to said digital data.

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^{42.} A digital data control method according to claim ¹⁹~~41~~, wherein said copyright information includes original copyright information and edit copyright information added to said digital data by a copyright management program.

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^{43.} A digital data management method according to claim ¹⁹~~41~~, wherein said copyright information is added in a file body of said digital data.

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^{44.} A digital data management method according to claim ¹⁹~~41~~, wherein said copyright information is added in a file header of said digital data.

 45. A digital data management method according to claim 41, wherein said copyright information is added in said copyright management program.

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^{46.} A digital data management method according to claim ²³~~45~~, wherein said copyright management program is added in a file body of said digital data.

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47. A digital data management method according to claim 41, wherein said digital data without said copyright information cannot be utilized.

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48. A digital data management method according to claim *47*, wherein utilization of said digital data is managed by a copyright management program.

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49. A digital data management method according to claim 47, wherein said digital data without said copyright information is encrypted again to said encrypted digital data by using said utilization permit key.

50. A digital data management method according to claim 47, wherein said digital data without said copyright information is encrypted again to said encrypted digital data by a copyright management program.

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-22 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 23-50 were added. Early consideration and allowance of claims 23-50 are earnestly solicited.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney, at the telephone number indicated below, to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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